

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application of:)

Applicant(s): Takayuki Kawabe)

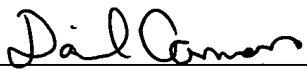
Serial No.:)

Filed: September 16, 2003)

For: STORAGE APPARATUS AND
ITS FOCUS CONTROL METHOD)

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

Sep. 16, 2003
Date


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | Attorney Docket No.: 1990.68360 | | Serial No.: | |
| | | | | Applicant: Takayuki Kawabe | | | |
| | | | | Filing Date: Sep. 16, 2003 | | Group: | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------|------|-------|----------|----------------------------|--|
| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|--|
| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Date | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation | | |
| | | | | | | Yes | No | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | |
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| Examiner | Date Considered |
| *Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |